

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,509

Examiner

Cassandra Davis

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to TELEPHONE INTERVIEW ON 3/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bruce R. Mansfield on March 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

9. The device of claim 1 wherein, with said slider member at the second position relative to said mast, said panels are wrapped about said struts and said mast.

10. A collapsible signaling device, comprising: a pocket member comprising a pair of overlying panels of flexible material, each having an outer periphery;

a plurality of spacers at a plurality of points about the outer periphery of said panels;

fasteners at said plurality of points joining said panels;

an internal structure comprising an elongated mast having an upper portion;

a collar slidably movable along said mast;

a pair of struts of spring material having first ends attached to the upper portion of said mast and second ends attached to said collar;

said pocket member covering at least a portion of said struts; and

said struts, said mast and said [tube] collar cooperating to cause said struts to bow out and contact at least some of said spacers when said collar is at a first position relative to said mast and to cause said struts to generally lie along said mast when said collar is at a second position relative to said mast.

11. A display device, comprising: a pair of overlying flexible panels having marginal edges joined together to form a pouch defining an interior cavity with an opening communicating with the interior cavity, with at least one of said panels displaying a message;

an internal frame at least partly inserted through said opening so as to lie within said interior cavity;

said internal frame including a mast and a pair of generally coextensive double ended resilient ribs having first ends pivotally joined to said mast;

a slider member slidably engaging said mast, with second ends of said ribs pivotally joined to said slider member; and

said ribs, said mast and said slider member cooperating so that with said slider member advanced toward [the] a free end of said mast, said ribs are compressed to take on a generally arcuate shape within said pouch.

17. The display device of claim [11] 16 wherein the spacers are hollow and said display device further includes a plurality of fastener members, said spacers[,] joining portions of said panels together.

18. The display device of claim [11] 16 wherein the spacers comprise hollow sleeves with rollers rotatably mounted about said sleeves.

19. The display device of claim 11 [17] wherein the fasteners comprise rivets.

20. The display device of claim [11] 16 wherein the ribs contact at least some of said spacers when said ribs are compressed to take on a generally arcuate shape within said pouch.

25. The display device of claim 11 further comprising a fastener member joining portions of said [message] panels to said mast, adjacent the mast free end.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest display device comprising combination a pocket or pouch formed from a pair of flexible panels and an internal frame or structure having a mast, slider member slidably engaging the mast, a pair of resilient ribs with one end attached to the mast and a second end attached to a slider member, wherein the pocket or pouch covers the internal structure or frame and when the slider is moved toward the free end of the mast the ribs are compressed and form an arcuate shape.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rector U. S. Patent 403,698 teaches a transparency or banner comprising a mast C, a fabric cover G, and ribs D and E having one attached to the mast and a second end attached to the frame of the fabric. Rector does not teach the ribs having one end attached to the mast and a second end attached to a slider.

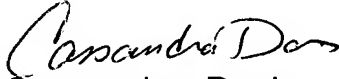
Taylor teaches a parasol type shelter comprising a mast and ribs. However the ribs do not having one end attached to the mast and a second end attached to a slider.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cassandra Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-6642. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Cassandra Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

CD
March 3, 2006